



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120

February 20, 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington D.C. 20590

**RE: Southeast Pennsylvania Multimodal Freight Optimization Plan**

Dear Secretary Duffy,

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) is submitting this letter regarding the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority's (PhilaPort) application to the FY 26 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program.

PhilaPort's request for \$3.456 million in planning funds will advance the planning, feasibility, and design of multimodal freight connections and link major regional assets including the Packer Avenue Marine Terminal, the Philadelphia Navy Yard, and The Bellwether District, an emerging 1,300-acre hub for logistics, manufacturing, and innovation. The project area also includes many high-value economic, recreational, and industrial facilities experiencing significant development and increased transportation demand. The design of the multimodal connection will accommodate growth, mitigate congestion, ensure the safe, efficient movement of goods, and support community accessibility. The project's scope entails developing a comprehensive, network-based approach, by studying current infrastructure conditions and constraints as well as potential connector routes, and suggested solutions.

The proposed planning initiative aligns with PennDOT's priorities to enhance economic competitiveness, strengthen multimodal networks, and improve long-term system resilience.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal from PhilaPort and its partners for planning funds from the FY 26 BUILD grant program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael B. Carroll".

Michael B. Carroll  
Secretary  
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation